DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 197 878 RC 012 463

AUTHOR Finley, Cathaleen
TITLE Choices & Careers: Free to Choose: Marriage --- Expectations or Reality. Books II and III and Leaders Guide.
INSTITUTION Wisconsin Univ., Madison, Univ. Extension.
SPONS AGENCY Extension Service (DOA), Washington, D.C.
PUB DATE 78
NOTE 79p.: For related documents, see ED 158 936-944 and RC 012 455-462, RC 012 464-470 and RC 012 507. Some pages may not reproduce clearly.
AVAILABLE FROM Women's Education Resources, Univ. of Wisconsin Extension, 430 Lowell Hall, 610 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53589 ($2.00).

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *Adolescents: American Indian Culture: American Indian Education: *American Indians: Expectation: *Females: Games: Individual Development: Leaders Guides: Learning Activities: *Marriage: *Role Perception: *Sex Role: Social Influences
IDENTIFIERS *Career Development Project for Tribal Girls

ABSTRACT

The unit explores several ideas regarding marriage and emphasizes that tribal women need to plan for a career as well as for marriage. The following concepts are to be stressed: (1) roles in marriage have changed: (2) people marry for a variety of reasons: (3) love is not the only consideration in selecting a mate: (4) marriage is really a marriage for both persons: (5) women are likely to be employed during their marriage: (6) working mothers can be good mothers: (7) both parents can share child care: (8) couples can make a marriage contract: (9) there may be a relationship between employment and divorce: (10) teenage marriages face some serious hazards: and (11) nonmarriage is an alternative. The unit features student books for girls aged 12 to 14 and 15 to 18. These contain self-analysis questionnaires and studies for discussion which give the girls practice in problem solving. A separate section, "Map Your Future," is part of the unit: it includes a game board and a set of cards for each girl and a set of problems for the group. The leaders' guide contains background information and learning experiences for each of the concepts presented. (Author/CM)

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Marriage — Expectations or Reality

by Cathaleen Finley

Illustrated by Vicki Wayman

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Choices & Careers
Free To Choose

UWEX Cooperative Extension Programs
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Marriage --- Expectations or Reality

Book II

by Cathaleen Finley

Illustrated by Vicki Wayman

About The Author

Cathaleen Finley is an associate professor in the Department of Family Development at University of Wisconsin—Extension. Vicki Wayman, a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewas, did the illustrations for the unit.

1978

About The Program

"Marriage—Expectations or Reality" has been developed as part of the project Choices & Careers, Free to Choose, a career development project for tribal girls. The project was developed with the assistance of tribal women in Wisconsin and was funded with special needs funds from Extension Service-USDA.

Fact Sheet

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Marriage --- Expectations or Reality

Unit for Girls

Choices and Careers
Free To Choose

"Marriage—Expectations or Reality" explores several ideas regarding marriage. It emphasizes the concept that women work for pay as well as getting married. Thus girls need to plan for a career as well as for marriage.

The following ideas are included in the unit:

1. Roles in marriage have changed, just as society has changed.
2. People marry for a variety of reasons.
3. Love is not the only idea to consider when selecting a mate.
4. Marriage is really a marriage for him and a marriage for her.
5. Women are likely to be employed during their marriage.
6. Working mothers can be good mothers.
7. Both parents can help care for a child.
8. Couples can make a marriage contract.
9. A relationship may exist between employment and divorce.
10. Teenage marriages face some serious hazards.
11. Nonmarriage is an alternative.

The unit includes a leaders guide, W2GZ11, which has background information and learning experiences for each of the above concepts.

There are also two student books: "Marriage—Expectations or Reality," Book II (W3GM11), for girls ages 12 to 14 and "Marriage—Expectations or Reality," Book III (W3GO11), for girls ages 15 to 18. An assimilation type activity, "Map Your Future," is part of the unit. The activity includes a game board (WTGZ11a) and a set of cards (WTGZ11b) for each girl and a set of problems (WTGZ11c) for the group.

A series of five charts WKGZ11d 1-5 illustrating some information about marriage is included as part of the unit.

About The Author

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Marriage --- Expectations or Reality

At one time some Indian tribes had a matriarchal society. In a matriarchal society a woman's brothers and other male relatives on her mother's side of the family helped her do the work that needed doing. Later on, couples joined together in what we now call marriage. Long ago there was plenty for both the husband and wife to do. They both helped to gather and preserve food. They both helped with making homes. There were both medicine men and medicine women. Later, men went to work in logging camps or took other jobs such as working for people with big boats. When men took those jobs, women were left to do such work as caring for the children, preparing the food, and taking care of the family's clothing.

Today most men are able to work near home. Technology means that women don't have as much work to do at home. For example, they buy their food instead of gathering or raising it, they use a washer and dryer instead of a scrub board or a wringer washer. And most clothes don't have to be ironed today.

Women used to have many babies; now they don't have so many. At the turn of the century, women didn't usually live to be 50 years old.

Today they can expect to live to be 75 years old.

All these changes mean that women must find something else to do, because keeping a home and raising children doesn't take a whole lifetime.

People get married because they really like each other and want to spend most of their lifetime with each other. Someone that you can expect to spend so much time with should have some of the same likes and dislikes as you do.

Another important reason why people marry is that they want a home in which to raise children.

Today some girls choose to marry when they are quite young. Others wait until they are older, until they have finished their education and have worked for a while. And today some women choose not to marry at all.

Because the work that needs to be done has changed, many women today work at jobs for pay. It used to be that girls spent a lot of time planning for their marriage. Today girls not only need to plan for a marriage, but they need to plan for their career—the work that they will do for pay. Sometimes when a woman marries, her husband doesn't earn enough money to buy the things the family needs, so the wife also must work for pay. Also, some husbands leave their wives and children. When this happens, the wife really must

be able to earn a living.

There is another change in marriages today. More and more men help to take care of their children. Think how nice it is for children to have two parents who often take care of them instead of just the mother.

You will probably work and you will probably marry. When a woman chooses a job that makes her happy, it is easier for her to be happy at home and thus easier for her to have a happy marriage.

Activity Section

What Women Did & Will Do

Check the year that you think a woman did or will do the following. You may check more than one year for each activity.

	1900	1930	1980	2000
Gather and dry berries.				
Buy food at a supermarket.				
Dry venison.				
Buy meat at a supermarket.				
Care for eight children of her own.				
Care for two children of her own.				
Haul water.				
Turn on the water faucet.				
Make a cornhusk mattress.				
Buy a mattress.				
Support her husband when he runs for a political office.				
Run for a political office herself.				
Make a quilt to keep warm.				
Make a quilt for fun.				
Bake bread to prevent hunger.				
Bake bread for fun.				
Plan to have a husband.				
Plan to have a career.				
Live to be 50.				
Live to be 75.				
Raise children for most of her life.				
Raise children for a small part of her life.				

A Choice To Make

Bill and Susie, both 22 years old, have been going to school in a large city; they plan to marry in about three months. Susie wants to return to the reservation and work in the community school. Bill wants to take a job in Washington. Susie feels that she is needed at the community school, she wants to be near her parents, and she hates living in a city. Bill believes he can be helpful by working in Washington and thinks that a big city is exciting.

How can Bill and Susie work out a compromise?

Mary and Tom are 19 and 21. They have two children, ages five months and two years. Mary didn't finish high school, but she is working on getting a GED. Tom has finished a carpentry course. Tom wants to move to the city and try to find a job using his carpentry skills. Mary wants to have another child before very long.

Discuss their situation.

Sarah has fallen madly in love with Hank. Sarah is listed as one-fourth on her tribal role. Hank is not Indian. Sarah would like her children to be part of her tribe.

Discuss the situation. Should she marry him? Why or why not?

Tillie is 22. She has finished an LPN course. She is working at a nursing home near her reservation. She is thinking about marrying Joe who is 24. Joe dropped out of high school when he was a junior and hasn't really had a steady job. Tillie thinks that they could live on her income, but she isn't sure.

Discuss their situation. What do you think? Why?

Molly and Mike, both from the same tribe, have been attending a university in a city. Molly has just earned a B.S. degree in library science. She would like to continue and get a masters degree in library science so she can get a really good job. Mike has a Ph.D. degree in engineering but has not been able to find a job in engineering.

Discuss their situation. What should Molly do? Why?

Maggie is 6 feet tall. She really is interested in Bill who is 5 feet 4 inches tall. Except for their difference in height, she thinks he is the perfect man for her.

Discuss their situation. Should Maggie marry Bill? Why or why not?

Martha really wants to marry Tom. However Tom has some personality characteristics that bother Martha. He is moody at times and sometimes acts irresponsibly by not keeping appointments or doing things that he promised to do. While these things make Martha angry, she is sure she can get him to change after they are married.

Discuss their situation. Do you think Martha can change Tom? Why or why not?

A Marriage Contract?

Check the things that you would like in a marriage contract.

_____ 1. To keep your own name.

_____ 2. To decide how many children you think you might want.

_____ 3. To decide who will be responsible for birth control.

_____ 4. To decide how much time each partner will spend at work for pay.

_____ 5. To decide how much time each partner will spend taking care of children.

_____ 6. To decide who will do what housework.

_____ 7. To decide who will pay what bills.

_____ 8. _____

_____

_____

_____ 9. _____

_____

_____

_____ 10. _____

_____

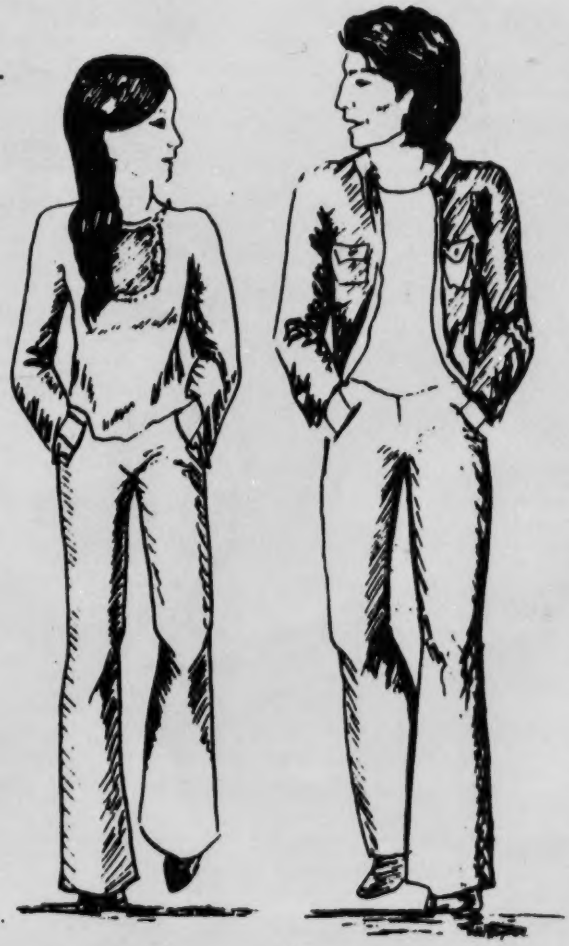
_____

_____ 11. _____

_____

_____

_____ You wouldn't want to make a marriage contract.



Teenage Marriages?

Have the girls complete the quiz on marriage and discuss their answers.

Agree	Don't Know	Dis-agree		
____	____	____	1.	A girl can drift into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	2.	A girl can get pushed into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	3.	A girl can escape into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	4.	A girl can land in a teenage marriage because of pregnancy.
____	____	____	5.	A girl who gets married before she is 20 is three times as likely to get divorced as a girl who marries between 22 and 24.
____	____	____	6.	More than half of teenage married couples have a baby before their first year of marriage is over.
____	____	____	7.	One out of six teenage wives have two or more babies before they are 20.
____	____	____	8.	A teenage girl who marries may give away freedom of choice.
____	____	____	9.	A teenage girl who marries may give away freedom to grow and develop.
____	____	____	10.	Within five years, half of all teenage marriages are finished.
____	____	____	11.	One out of every two teenage marriages ends in divorce.
____	____	____	12.	A teenage girl who marries may find herself with financial problems.

Marriage --- Expectations or Reality

Book III

by Cathaleen Finley

Illustrated by Vicki Wayman

About The Author

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Marriage --- Expectations or Reality

Long ago some Indian tribes were matriarchal societies. In a matriarchal society the woman's relatives on her mother's side of the family helped do the work that needed to be done. Later, men and women joined together as couples in what we know as marriage.

Technology has caused marriage to change somewhat. Many of the things that long ago needed to be made in the home by the family are now purchased. Thus people need to earn money to buy the goods and services that they want or need. In some families the man is the one who earns the income; in other families, the wife must help earn the income. Then too, many women are separated or divorced from their husbands. Yet they need to support themselves and their children. In fact, five out of 10 nonwhite families are headed by a woman.

This means that a girl needs to think not only about her future mate but also about her future career.

Marriage serves many useful purposes, which is probably the reason it has been around so long. Marriage provides the family unit for bearing and raising children. It provides a comfortable arrangement for sexual needs and desires, which are very natural and normal. It also provides for the love, companionship, and sharing that every human being needs.

At one time marriage and child rearing took up most of a woman's

life. Today with modern birth control methods, women have fewer children. With improved health care, women live longer. Today a woman can expect to live to be 75 years old. It used to be that a woman didn't live any longer than it took to raise her children.

Three of the big events in life are birth, marriage, and death. You can't do much about either birth or death, but you can have much to say about your marriage.

The man a woman chooses to marry will have something to do with what their children are like. The man one marries will have some influence on where and how a couple lives. His ability to earn a living, and the amount of education he has will affect how the family lives. On the other hand, a woman's interests, her education, and her ability to earn an income will influence her life just as much as a man's will.

The race of one's children is also affected by the man a girl chooses for a mate. Indian women may want to think of the degree of Indian blood they want for their children.

It is a good idea when thinking about a mate to realize that it is next to impossible to remold someone, as if he were a piece of clay. It is far better to choose a mate who suites you as he is, rather than think you can remake him or change his annoying habits after marriage.

A popular notion is that marriage is the answer to one's dream, that it is a bed of roses in a rose-covered cottage. It may be so for some women. But for others it isn't. In fact, research suggests that married men are happier than married women and that single women are happier than single men.

Research also supports the idea that married women who work are happier than those who don't work. Also, children of working mothers are no better off or no worse off than children of mothers who don't work. This fact shouldn't surprise us. We know that most fathers work and that some fathers are great, some are ok, and some are not good at all.

Today, as a long time ago, it is possible for a woman to plan for marriage and to plan for a career at the same time.

It used to be that many couples married without deciding very much about what part each would play in their marriage. Today more and more couples are working out a marriage contract before they marry. The contract states such things as what name the wife will use, her own or her husband's. The marriage contract might also include something about employment, doing housework, the use of income, how many children to have, when to have them, and who will care for them.

While a marriage contract may change, having a contract is a good way to work out differences and conflicting ideas before the wedding.

Today one out of three marriages ends in divorce. There are many reasons for divorce. However, if a woman chooses a career that makes her happy, she is also likely to be happy at home. This means she can have a happier marriage.

Some young people choose to marry as teenagers. One out of two teenage marriages ends in divorce. There are several reasons for this. Marrying as a teenager may mean that a person is giving up a chance to grow and fully develop his or her personality. A teenage bride may give up the opportunity to start a career.

Some teenagers marry to escape an unhappy home life. But that course of action may mean that they follow the pattern of the only home life that they know. Marriage to prevent loneliness may really result in greater loneliness. What looks like excitement may quickly turn into routine. In the past, the extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, and sisters did much to prevent this kind of loneliness.

Marriage and children bring pressures and tensions that can be exhausting. Also teenage girls are still physically growing themselves so are really not ready to bear children. Moreover, a teenage couple may become frustrated in trying to pay a man's bills with a boy's wages.

Today as never before an Indian girl has the opportunity to pursue a career, to wait for marriage, to make a contribution to society and her tribe, and be a wife and mother.

Marriage is not a white dress and organ music. It is years and years of hard work adapting to someone else and helping him adapt to you, and working, and paying bills, and doing housework.

Activity Section

What Women Did & Will Do

Check the year that you think a woman did or will do the following. You may check more than one year for each activity.

	1900	1930	1980	2000
Gather and dry berries.				
Buy food at a supermarket.				
Dry venison.				
Buy meat at a supermarket.				
Care for eight children of her own.				
Care for two children of her own.				
Haul water.				
Turn on the water faucet.				
Make a cornhusk mattress.				
Buy a mattress.				
Support her husband when he runs for a political office.				
Run for a political office herself.				
Make a quilt to keep warm.				
Make a quilt for fun.				
Bake bread to prevent hunger.				
Bake bread for fun.				
Plan to have a husband.				
Plan to have a career.				
Live to be 50.				
Live to be 75.				
Raise children for most of her life.				
Raise children for a small part of her life.				

The Future. . .

1. The man of the future _____

2. The woman of the future _____

3. The marriage of the future _____

What About Marriage?

1. Why do I want to marry?

2. How will I know if I am choosing the right person?

3. What do I want to accomplish before I marry?

4. How will my marriage fit with my career?

5. How will I know if the bills can be paid once I am married?

I Do or I Don't

Two young people are about to be married. Following are some things on which they might disagree. Which areas of disagreement would be serious enough that the wedding should be canceled?

a. Whether to elope or have a big wedding.

b. Number of children desired.

c. Whether to have children.

d. How children should be disciplined.

e. Politics.

f. Religion.

g. Whether the man "runs the family."

h. Whether the woman works.

i. How leisure time is spent.

j. Where they will live.

A Choice To Make

Bill and Susie, both 22 years old, have been going to school in a large city; they plan to marry in about three months. Susie wants to return to the reservation and work in the community school. Bill wants to take a job in Washington. Susie feels that she is needed at the community school, she wants to be near her parents, and she hates living in a city. Bill believes he can be helpful by working in Washington and thinks that a big city is exciting.

How can Bill and Susie work out a compromise?

Mary and Tom are 19 and 21. They have two children, ages five months and two years. Mary didn't finish high school, but she is working on getting a GED. Tom has finished a carpentry course. Tom wants to move to the city and try to find a job using his carpentry skills. Mary wants to have another child before very long.

Discuss their situation.

Sarah has fallen madly in love with Hank. Sarah is listed as one-fourth on her tribal role. Hank is not Indian. Sarah would like her children to be part of her tribe.

Discuss the situation. Should she marry him? Why or why not?

Tillie is 22. She has finished an LPN course. She is working at a nursing home near her reservation. She is thinking about marrying Joe who is 24. Joe dropped out of high school when he was a junior and hasn't really had a steady job. Tillie thinks that they could live on her income, but she isn't sure.

Discuss their situation. What do you think? Why?

Molly and Mike, both from the same tribe, have been attending a university in a city. Molly has just earned a B.S. degree in library science. She would like to continue and get a masters degree in library science so she can get a really good job. Mike has a Ph.D. degree in engineering but has not been able to find a job in engineering.

Discuss their situation. What should Molly do? Why?

Maggie is 6 feet tall. She really is interested in Bill who is 5 feet 4 inches tall. Except for their difference in height, she thinks he is the perfect man for her.

Discuss their situation. Should Maggie marry Bill? Why or why not?

Martha really wants to marry Tom. However Tom has some personality characteristics that bother Martha. He is moody at times and sometimes acts irresponsibly by not keeping appointments or doing things that he promised to do. While these things make Martha angry, she is sure she can get him to change after they are married.

Discuss their situation. Do you think Martha can change Tom? Why or why not?

What About It?

Mr. and Mrs. Jones have been married for 40 years. Mrs. Jones unexpectedly had a stroke and died. Within six months Mr. Jones was in a nursing home unable to take care of himself and in very poor health.

Why do you think this happended?

Mr. and Mrs. Henry White had been married for 35 years. Mrs. White died in a car accident. Before the year was over, Mr. White announced his intentions to marry a widow in the community.

Why do you think this happened?

Monica Hall is the mother of four children. Her husband is employed at the mill. She is not employed. They have a regular income and what would seem to be a happy life. However, Monica often feels unhappy and fears that everything is going to pieces. She is terrified of thunder storms and is bothered by pains and ailments in different parts of her body.

Why do you think she feels this way?

Marriage IQ

Agree	Don't Know	Dis-agree		
____	____	____	1.	In every marriage, there are two marriages, his and hers.
____	____	____	2.	His marriage is usually better than hers.
____	____	____	3.	Men who are divorced or widowed usually re-marry.
____	____	____	4.	Single men have more mental health problems than single women.
____	____	____	5.	Many men die soon after their wives die.
____	____	____	6.	Single women earn more money then single men.
____	____	____	7.	Married women have more mental health problems than married men.
____	____	____	8.	Women are usually unhappier with their marriage than men are.
____	____	____	9.	Women who are employed are usually happier than those who aren't.
____	____	____	10.	Unmarried women are usually happier than unmarried men.
____	____	____	11.	Marriage can be a part of a woman's life rather than her total life.

A Need for Job Skills

Sue and Bob, both 22, have been married for three years and have two children. Even though Bob has been unhappy with his work, Sue thought things were generally in pretty good shape. But a few days ago Bob said he had had it and left. Sue doesn't know where to find him. Her legal aid attorney doesn't seem to be able to help. She suspects that even if she does locate Bob, he will not send money to her and the children. Sue graduated from high school.

Should she try to find a job?
Should she apply for AFDC?
Should she go to Chicago where she thinks Bob might be?
What other choices does she have?
How could this situation have been avoided?

Sally and Dick have been married for five years. They have two children ages two and four. Dick is working and they are barely able to get by on his income. Sally graduated from high school.

Should she stay home until the children are older?
Should she go to vocational school?
Should she take a low-paying job in a local nursing home?
What other options does she have?
How could she have been better prepared to help supplement the family income?

Sally graduated from high school and is employed as a secretary at $2.90 an hour in a large city. She has been married for a year and has a tiny baby. Her husband has been laid off, after working only a short time. He doesn't have many job skills and didn't finish high school. Their rent is $180 a month. They have car payments of $50 a month. The babysitter, a neighbor woman, is paid $50 a month. The phone bill is $9 a month. Sally needs $10 a month for bus fare. Besides these fixed expenses they need to buy food, some clothing and household supplies, and they would like some recreation.

Is the family going to survive on Sally's income?
How could this situation have been avoided?
What choices does Sally have now?

Martha has been married for 20 years. The children are pretty much grown. For at least the last 10 years she has been positive that Bob, her husband, was the wrong choice for her. For the past 20 years she has worked hard caring for her home and family but has never received any money except money for the groceries. She quite school in 10th grade. She knows that if she divorces Bob she won't have child support payments for very long.

What choices does Martha have?
How could she have prevented this situation?

A Job or Marriage?

Marty and John have been married for two years. They have a six-month old baby boy. They each have a B.S. degree in education. John is teaching at the community school. At the local high school there is an opening for a science teacher. Marty would really like to be teaching. She particularly would like to be able to work with the Indian students who attend the high school. John thinks she should stay home with the baby.

Should Marty accept the job? Why or why not?

Jack and Marie have both just graduated from a state university. They feel they are meant for each other and plan to marry. The question is, when? Jack wants to get married in a few months. He has a job. Marie can't find a job in the same community. She can find a job 200 miles away. She feels it is important that she have an opportunity to be independent before she marries.

Should she forget Jack?
Should she plan to work for a few years and then marry Jack?
Should she marry Jack in a few months?
What other options does she have?
Why did you make the choice that you did?

Ideas About Marriage

Check how you feel about the following ideas on marriage.

Agree	Not Sure	Dis-agree	
			Marriage will last forever.
			It means total commitment to each other.
			It will bring happiness, comfort, and security.
			Your mate belongs to you.
			You will have constant attention, concern, admiration, and consideration from your mate.
			You will never be lonely again.
			Your mate would rather be with you than with anyone else at all times.
			Your mate will never be attracted to another person and will always be "true" to you.
			Jealousy means that you care.
			All problems in marriage revolve around sex and love.
			You are not complete persons without becoming parents.
			The ultimate goal of marriage is having a child.
			Having a child is the ultimate expression of your love for each other.
			Having a child will bring new vitality to a sagging marriage or rescue a failing one.
			You will adjust to one another gradually without fights, arguments or misunderstandings.
			You don't love each other if there is conflict between you.
			Any change in your mate will come gradually with the maturity of age.
			Any other kind of change means loss of love.
			You have the right to expect one thing of a husband and another of a wife.

Agree	Not Sure	Dis-agree	
			Sacrifice is a true measure of love.
			Most important, the person you marry can fulfill all your needs, economic, physical, sexual, intellectual, and emotional.
			You will share most things but not everything.
			Each partner will change—and that change can occur through conflict.
			Each will accept responsibility for himself and let the mate do likewise.
			You cannot expect your mate to fulfill all your needs or to do for you what you should be doing for yourself.
			Each partner will be different in needs, capacities, values, and expectations because each is a different person, not just because one is a husband and the other a wife.
			If you choose to have children, you will undertake the role of parents knowingly and willingly as the greatest responsibility in life.
			Liking and loving will grow because of your mutual respect.

A Marriage Contract?

Check the things that you would like in a marriage contract.

_____ 1. To keep your own name.

_____ 2. To decide how many children you think you might want.

_____ 3. To decide who will be responsible for birth control.

_____ 4. To decide how much time each partner will spend at work for pay.

_____ 5. To decide how much time each partner will spend taking care of children.

_____ 6. To decide who will do what housework.

_____ 7. To decide who will pay what bills.

_____ 8. _____
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_____ 9. _____
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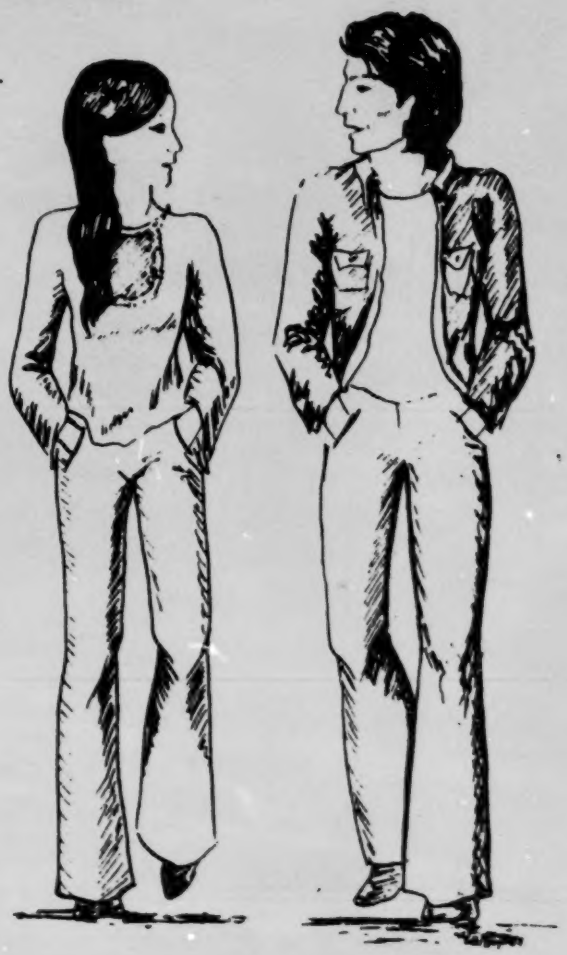
_____ 10. _____
_____
_____

_____ 11. _____
_____
_____

_____ You wouldn't want to make a marriage contract.



Teenage Marriages?

Have the girls complete the quiz on marriage and discuss their answers.

Agree	Don't Know	Dis-agree		
____	____	____	1.	A girl can drift into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	2.	A girl can get pushed into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	3.	A girl can escape into a teenage marriage.
____	____	____	4.	A girl can land in a teenage marriage because of pregnancy.
____	____	____	5.	A girl who gets married before she is 20 is three times as likely to get divorced as a girl who marries between 22 and 24.
____	____	____	6.	More than half of teenage married couples have a baby before their first year of marriage is over.
____	____	____	7.	One out of six teenage wives have two or more babies before they are 20.
____	____	____	8.	A teenage girl who marries may give away freedom of choice.
____	____	____	9.	A teenage girl who marries may give away freedom to grow and develop.
____	____	____	10.	Within five years, half of all teenage marriages are finished.
____	____	____	11.	One out of every two teenage marriages ends in divorce.
____	____	____	12.	A teenage girl who marries may find herself with financial problems.

Reality

When Ted and Joan married, they really thought they would have a happy marriage. However, Ted is now cross, irritable, and sometimes gets unreasonably angry. Joan suspects that Ted is unhappy with his job. Both married right after graduating from high school and within the year they were parents of twin baby boys. Ted has worked as a laborer. He really has an interest in art but has neither the time nor the money to do anything about it.

Discuss their situation.

Sandra married at 19. She finished high school and had one semester of college. In college she had lots of fun but didn't do much studying. Now after three years of marriage her husband leaves her for a woman with three small children. Sandra realizes his income will be used for his new family.

Discuss their situation.

Philosophy

Which of these philosophies do you consider most desirable in a young bride or groom?

a. "I said it and I meant it, 'until death do us part.' I shall never, never consider divorce."

b. "If things don't work out well, there is always the divorce court."

c. "I believe in this marriage and I'll do my best to make it a happy one. If my best isn't good enough, however, I won't let pride or pressure frighten me of divorce."

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Choices & Careers
Free To Choose

Leaders Guide
Marriage --- Expectations or Reality
Unit For Girls

by Cathaleen Finley

Cooperative Extension Programs
University of Wisconsin-Extension

W2CZ11

Marriage - Expectations or Reality - Unit for Girls

Concept Roles in marriage have changed because of changes in society.

Objectives

1. Girls will understand that marriage for them may be different from what is was for their mothers and grandmothers.
2. Girls will understand why some aspects of marriage have changed.

Background Information

Today's teenage woman may be preparing for a 19th-century life-style while she will really be living in the 20th or 21st century. Many young women plan to marry and give no thought to life after 30 or so. Motherhood is no longer a lifetime career.

Dr. Jessie Bernard, a noted sociologist, writes that from the very earliest years girls will have to learn that however large marriage may loom in their lives, it is not the end all and be all. They need to understand that motherhood will probably be an important part of their lives but that they cannot indulge themselves by investing all of their emotional and intellectual resources in their children, nor can they count on being supported all their lives simply because they are wives.

It is increasingly possible for women to have both a career and marriage. Children must have affection and care, but this does not mean that a mother must spend all her time with her children.

Today, many women are challenging marriage patterns, child rearing practices, and work roles. American women are no longer submissive retiring flowers of femininity confined to the home, dedicated only to

the care of the husband, house, and family.

The threat of these changes to the male ego is great, and some men have trouble accepting the changes. Yet, the trend is in the direction of greater equality in sex roles, for both men and women are growing in their understanding. Once the successful wife was often a shrewd student of the male personality, and most of her wishes had to be realized by manipulating her mate. Today women may be less subtle, as they are able to achieve their wishes in their own right.

Changes in society have affected marriage. Women live longer and have fewer children. This means that less of a woman's married life is devoted to childbearing and child rearing. At the turn of the century, a woman spent almost a third of her married life in childbearing and practically all of it in child rearing. At that time it was unusual if a woman lived to be past 50. Today, women may be married for 50 years, have about two children, and be engaged in both childbearing and intensive child rearing for only about 10 years; and they can expect to live to be 75. Also, women live longer than men, so they may have years alone toward the end of their lives.

In the past, marriages did not last as long as they do today because life itself was shorter. Childbirth took an enormous toll among women. The story revealed by tombstones shows that a man might have several wives in his lifetime. In those days, the change of mates was often the result of death, not divorce. Nowadays, people have a much longer time to discover how unhappy their marriages may be.

Having children has always been viewed as one of the major reasons for marriage. Now, with fewer children, women have more time. Modern developments in methods of birth control mean new freedom for

women. Women are now free to enjoy sex without fear of pregnancy. That fear was a heavy tax in the past. The relaxation of laws on abortion also affects marriage. The concept of no-fault divorce has eased the guilt which people used to suffer in a divorce.

One of the differences in the lives of women today, as compared to the lives of their grandmothers and great grandmothers, is that their existence forced them into an awareness. It was necessary for them to create. And in the creativity, awareness was the natural by-product. For example, the clothes their families wore were the products of their own hands. The food their families ate was cooked without benefit of prepackaging. All the things that made survival possible were things that challenged a woman's creativity and sharpened her sense of awareness of the world around her.

Today, such a sense of awareness does not come from fulfilling the basic demands of life. Rather a woman may need to struggle to be able to have her own identity, to have a sense of awareness, and to be creative.

In the past, men and women clearly knew their roles and obligations; if they found happiness in fulfilling them, that was fine. If not, they at least had the satisfaction of meeting their responsibilities. Today the roles of men and women are not so clearly defined. Think of how in the past, women carried the water that the family used. Water today is available at the turn of the tap. It is the male plumber and engineer who now assure its flow. Food used to be preserved by women. Today it is mass produced by an industry that gives employment to many men. In the past when flour was ground by hand, it was women who ground it. As soon as wind and water mills were invented, men took over. These kinds of changes, caused by technology, mean that women

have a different role to play. Families worked to provide the things for survival. Today, because of technology, people earn money to buy the things needed for survival.

In the middle 1900's, women had been convinced that not to get married was indeed a fate worse than death, for without marriage one could not be completely fulfilled. Understandably, therefore, women resisted admitting even to themselves that they did not want to marry, because it was assumed that there must be something wrong with the unmarried. Today there is a greater tolerance than ever before for the woman who chooses to delay marriage or not to marry at all.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls describe a day in the life of a woman of their tribe in the years 1900, 1930, and 1975.
2. Have the girls describe what they think a day in their life will be like in the year 2000.
3. Ask the girls what part marriage played in either 1900, 1930, or 1975. What part will marriage play in the year 2000? Why are there such changes?
4. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "What Women Did and Will Do" on page 5 of Book II and on page 7 of Book III. Have the girls compare and discuss their answers.
5. As the girls how the pill has affected male-female relationships.
6. Show the girls the chart "Time for Raising Children in 1900 [and] . . . in 1970." What does the information mean in terms of planning for a career?
7. Show the girls the chart "How a Woman's Life Is Spent." The chart

is based upon how an "average" woman would spend her lifetime. The chart starts at age 18, when one is considered an adult. Following are the points the chart makes:

a. A woman spends the years from 18 to 21 selecting a mate.

b. A woman spends the years from 21 to 29 bearing children.

c. A woman spends the years from 29 to 47 raising children.

d. A woman spends the years from 47 to 65 with a husband, but with no young children.

e. A woman spends the years from 65 to 75 as a widow.

Ask the girls what they think the above data mean in terms of planning for a career, as well as for marriage. How will they use this time?

8. Have the girls list several choices a young unmarried woman might consider that were never open to women of generations past. What do the girls think the differences may mean?

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. It is sometimes said that the more choices one has, the more problems one has. Ask the girls if this is true; would they say that the young woman of today has greater of fewer problems than young women of the past? Why?

2. Have the girls role play the following episode:

> A husband has just come home from work. He's tired and hungry after a hard day. He finds no supper, a messy house, and a wife who has spent her afternoon campaigning for a friend who is running for tribal council. The husband's first line is an angry one: "What kind of a wife are you? Women didn't used to be like this." The wife answers crossly, "You're right; times have changed, and so have women."

Go on from there to show how confusion and disagreement in role behavior can be at the bottom of marital conflict.

3. Have the girls poll some of their friends on the following (other questions dealing with roles may be added, if desired):

    a. Favorite work
    b. Greatest ambition
    c. What I want to be at age 50

    Tabulate and analyze results by sex. What do the results tell about roles?

4. Have the girls think about the changing male-female roles. To do so, have them complete the activity "The Future . . ." on page 8 of Book III. Let them discuss their answers.

Concept There are a variety of reasons for marriage.

Objective

Girls will develop an understanding of why people marry.

Background Information

Marriage is viewed as providing a stable relationship for raising children. True, the rearing of children is essential if a tribe or a society is to continue in existence. It is interesting to compare this view with that of matriarchal societies. In such societies it was a woman's family, composed of both her female and male relatives who contributed to a stable environment in which to raise children.

Today, marriage is also viewed as providing legitimacy for children, as helping divide the work that needs to be done, as a sexual outlet, and as social support. Once the marriage takes place, society tends to view the two individuals differently than prior to marriage.

However, a woman may get married for some other reasons. One of those reasons may have to do with what she learned when she was growing up. A woman may fear that if she doesn't marry the man at hand, there won't be another one available. She may be one who believes that her reason for being is to satisfy a man, who will in turn lead her to the altar.

If a woman can fully realize that there are opportunities to use her talents and abilities, and if those talents and abilities are developed, she might see marriage as a part of her life rather than her total life. With this approach, a woman has an opportunity to choose a mate with whom she can share a fulfilling life. Such an approach might reduce the divorce rate, which presently affects one out of three marriages.

Pregnancy, the desire to cover feelings of guilt over sexual activity, and the need to justify sexual involvement are also reasons for marriage. Girls must realize that sexual needs are very real physical needs. The mutual expression of sexual feelings in marriage is one of the elements in the fulfillment of a person's need for feeling successful, safe, and whole. Yet, if a relationship is based primarily on sexual attraction, it may well end in disappointment for a woman. The most comfortable, enduring, and responsible sex relationships are filled within the bonds of marriage. But with modern methods of birth control, both men and women can enjoy their sexual bonds with little fear of pregnancy. It has never been so before.

Marriage can provide companionship. It can provide an important outlet for affection. Marriage can bring emotional security. It can provide a place to relax or to feel free from competition and fault. It can provide a refuge from trouble and a hiding place in a world that

can give a person rough treatment.

Today many questions are being asked about the institution of marriage. Perhaps one of the reasons for the questions is not that marriage is becoming any worse. It may be that marriage is getting better, and that people expect more of marriage today.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls work in groups of three or four to make a list of reasons people marry. Ask them to decide which are good and which are poor reasons for a marriage.
2. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "What About Marriage?" on page 9 of Book III. Have the girls share some of their answers, if they want to.
3. Have the girls make a list of the needs that they think marriage can fulfill for them. Collect the lists, shuffle the papers, and hand them back to the girls. Have them discuss some of the things on their lists.
4. Have the girls make a list of their needs that could be fulfilled outside of marriage. Handle this the same as you did the previous activity.
5. Ask the girls to debate one of these statements: "Marriage is here to stay," or "Fifty years from now there will be no such thing as marriage."
6. Have the girls role play the following situation:

   A mother is trying to discourage her 17-year-old daughter from marrying a 21-year-old man.

7. Have the girls discuss the activity "I Do or I Don't" on page 10 of Book III.

8. Have the girls role play the following situation:

> A young woman is talking to her happily married sister, trying to decide if she should marry her boyfriend. Her sister tries to help her decide by asking a number of questions based on contemporary values in mate selection. Their grandmother enters and adds her advice, which is largely based on things from her own youth.

Concept There are factors besides love to consider when selecting a marriage partner.

Objective

Girls will become aware of some of the factors to consider when selecting a mate.

Background Information

How does a woman choose a marriage partner? The choice probably shouldn't be made solely on how her heart flip-flops over one man.

Three important events in life are birth, marriage, and death. Birth just happens to one, and death is also largely beyond one's control. But a woman can have much to say about marriage. She is free to decide whom to marry and when to marry.

When a woman decides to say, "I do," she is not only deciding whom she is going to live with for the next 50 years but a host of other things. A woman's mate in marriage partly determines the biological makeup of her children, their appearance, and their capacity.

The man a woman marries will in part determine such things as where the couple will live, what their social status will be, and what their standard of living will be.

The race of a woman's children is influenced by the man she marries. Indian girls may want to think about the degree of Indian blood that their children will have. A U. S. census report for 1970 showed that one-third of American Indian males had white wives. Girls need to consider whether or not they want their children to be on their tribal rolls.

The educational level of the man a woman may choose to marry may affect her level of income. Is she willing to take chances with a man who may be qualified only for unskilled labor? On the other hand, it is not uncommon for a man with a Ph.D. to be unemployed at the present time. However, in a marriage where there is some reasonable certainty about income the marriage is less likely to end in divorce.

In white society, there has been a tendency for women to marry men they can look up to, so they marry men with more education than themselves. Also, a man in the marriage market may discover that he does not want a wife who is his educational and intellectual equal.

It would save considerable grief for people who are considering marriage if they realized that undesirable traits or habits do not just disappear after marriage. In fact, such traits as irritability, intolerance, moodiness, and lack of responsibility are likely to get worse rather than be cured by marriage. A person who has never succeeded in getting along with parents, teachers, or employers is not likely to get along any better with a new spouse. A man who used drinking as an escape before marriage will find even more worries to escape after marriage.

Some people marry with the thought that the partner is a piece of clay that can be molded into any desired form. On the contrary, the person one marries has a fully developed personality. Trying to change

another person's ways, habits, ideas, and values is a difficult job. The man or woman who marries with the expectation of remaking the new spouse into a more desirable person is in for a rude awakening.

Learning Experience

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls discuss the case studies in "A Choice to Make," and have them decide what each girl should do and why. The case studies are on pages 6-7 of Book II and on pages 11-12 of Book III.

Concept Within a marriage, there are two marriages, his and hers, and they are not the same.

Objective

Girls will understand that marriage does not always make a woman extremely happy.

Background Information

Women have been known to say that marriage is great for men but not so great for women. Dr. Jesse Bernard writes that "marriage as it is now structured is great for men, but it is not really all that good for women." She also says, "there [are] usually two marriages in every marriage, his and hers, and often they don't coincide."

Numerous studies show that a man profits greatly from having a wife to take care of him. The highest suicide rate in the nation's population is among divorced men. Most divorced men and widowed men remarry. Many men die soon after their wives die. Other studies show that more single men than single women suffer from mental health prob-

lems of depression and passiveness. Research also shows that single women are more educated, have higher incomes, and are in better occupations than single men.

While being married may be advantageous to men in terms of health, it is not so for women.

Studies show that more wives than husbands report marital problems and dissatisfaction with marriage, more wives than husbands consider their marriage unhappy, more wives than husbands have considered separation and divorce, and more wives than husbands have regretted their marriages. With such reports, one wonders why girls still rush to the altar. Possibly it is because they don't see that they have other choices. Other research reports show that more married women than married men feel that they are about to have a nervous breakdown, more experience psychological anxiety, and more blame themselves for their own lack of general adjustment.

Another study found that more married women than married men are bothered by feelings of depression, are unhappy most of the time, dislike their present jobs, sometimes feel they are about to go to pieces, are afraid of death, are terrified by wind storms, are worried about catching diseases, and are bothered by pains and ailments in different parts of their bodies.

It is not the complaints about marriage that indicate how bad a wife's marriage may be, but rather it is the poor mental and emotional health of married women as compared to the health of married men and unmarried women.

Studies also reveal that women who work show fewer symptoms of psychological distress. Women would probably have better mental health if they were able to define their identity through some accomplishments

of their own rather than just the accomplishments of their husbands and children.

Some people think that the differences shown by these studies are not those of the husband and wife but rather those of male and female, and that the emotional and mental health problems of wives show up because they are women. The fact is that the mental health picture of wives shows up just as unfavorably when compared with the mental health picture of unmarried women.

The above are ideas that may be quite unfamiliar to girls. Thus, they may require some special emphasis in teaching.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Do the girls think that men or women get the best deal in marriage? Why?
2. If it is available, have the girls listen to the tape on marriage from the "Tribal Women: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" materials. Follow the tape by using the discussion questions, which are part of the materials.
3. If it is available, have the girls read Chapter VI, "High Horse Courting," in Black Elk Speaks, by John G. Neihardt. Or you might read the story to them.

    a. Ask the girls what they thought of the story.

    b. Ask them what it meant when the girl refused to run away with High Horse, and Black Elk said, "But she said she would not do that; she wanted to be bought like a fine woman. You see she thought a great deal of herself too."

    c. Ask the girls what Black Elk meant when he said, "The old man did not wave him away that time. It was not the horses that he wanted. What he wanted was a son who was a real man and good for something."

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls discuss the case studies in "What About It?" The case studies are on page 12 of Book III.
2. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "Marriage IQ" on page 13 of Book III. Use the background information when the answers are discussed. All the answers are true.

Concept Women are likely to be employed during marriage.

Objectives

1. Girls will understand that they may need to work for pay to supplement their husbands' incomes.
2. Girls will understand that they may be divorced and will need to be able to support themselves financially.
3. Girls will understand that they may not marry and will need to be able to support themselves financially.

Background Information

It is only in marriage that women are expected to work without receiving any specified wages and with no set working hours. A good many women enter marriage penniless and become dependent upon their mates for bed, board, clothing, and funds with which to run the house and care for the children.

If a marriage ends in divorce, the wife must work to support herself, must depend on her ex-husband's charity, or must turn to a public assistance program. The divorce rate might be even higher if women were not faced with such economic problems. The woman who has not

developed job skills is unable to have the independence that goes with supporting herself in a decent manner.

The average woman who leaves marriage leaves it as poor as she entered it. She is older and far less able to find employment with wages above the poverty level. Fifty-five percent of all Indian families in Wisconsin with a female head are below the poverty level.

A young woman who is considering marriage needs to think about the danger of basing a family's income on two incomes if she doesn't plan to continue working after her children are born. On the other hand, many young women can expect to work to meet the financial demands of a family. For example in 1973, three out of five women workers were living with their husbands, and two out of five women workers had children under 18. Many of those women had husbands who earned less than $7,000 a year. In Wisconsin, 32 percent of Indian women who are employed have children under the age of six.

In view of these economic factors, it seems wise for a girl to develop job skills, to plan a career so she will be able to support herself and her children in a decent manner if her marriage is troubled, or to supplement her husband's income if necessary.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls debate the statement, "The most important thing for a man to do in a marriage is to provide for his wife and children."
2. Show the girls the charts illustrating that 32 percent of Wisconsin Indian women who are employed have children under the age of 6 and that 55 percent of Wisconsin Indian women who head families are in

poverty. Ask the girls:

a. What happens to women who haven't planned for a career?

b. Why is it a good idea to plan for a career?

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls discuss the case studies in "A Need for Job Skills" on page 14 of Book III.

Concept The well-being of a child does not need to be lessened by a mother being employed.

Objective

Girls will understand that it is appropriate for mothers to work outside the home for pay, whether by economic necessity or for self-fulfillment.

Background Information

It is interesting to find out that wives who work outside the home have better mental health than wives who do not. Research does not support the view that children suffer when mothers work. Children of working mothers are not more likely than children of nonworking mothers to be delinquent or nervous or withdrawn or antisocial. They are no more likely to show neurotic symptoms. There are no more likely to perform poorly in school, and they are no more likely to feel deprived of motherly love. Daughters of working mothers are themselves more likely to want to work. And when asked to name the one person they most admire, they are most likely to name their own mothers. Finally, research has shown that the worst mothers are those who

would like to work but stay home out of a sense of duty. The major conclusion from all the research on maternal employment seems to be this: what matters is the quality of a mother's relationship with her children, not the amount of time that she spends with the children. The conclusion should come as no surprise to anyone. Fathers have been demonstrating it for years. Some fathers are great; some fathers are not great, and almost all of them work eight hours a day.

A common problem created by a woman's interest in the work world is the psychological effect it may have on her husband. When a woman becomes seriously interested in her own job, she is thrown into competition with her husband, or her husband feels he is losing his wife's love and devotion, or he may fear that his wife may beat him at his own game. In some cases, it is difficult for an American man to maintain his self-respect when being out-distanced by his wife.

On the positive side, the working woman has an increased insight into a man's life and problems. There is some evidence that successful work experience prior to marriage helps a marriage to be successful. No doubt the insight gained into work roles is a factor.

Learning Experience

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls discuss the case studies in "A Job or Marriage?" on page 15 of Book III.

Concept	Both the husband and wife have an opportunity to develop careers and care for their children.

Objectives

1. Girls will become aware that they can have both a career and a marriage.
2. Girls will become aware that their husbands can help raise their children.

Background Information

Within the first week of marriage, a young couple sets a pattern without giving it any thought. The wife does the cooking and housework, the husband carries the laundry to the laundromat, neither one has any privacy, and each keeps track of the other's friends. They always appear as a couple and expect to grow together even more. What growing together may mean in such a marriage pattern is that they will stamp out individual desires and potential, encouraging only those that are mutually pleasing and acceptable. The woman has been taught by social custom, media, and advertising that the good wife does her best to run the home the way her husband wants it run. The fact that she works full-time, something that probably neither her mother nor her husband's mother did, is simply not considered.

There are some different ideas on what a marriage should be. Both husbands and wives can have careers that grow and develop. Both husbands and wives can care for their children. That way, both parents can have the challenge and fulfillment of two worlds—that of a family and that of a career—rather than choosing one over the other. That way children can benefit from the love and concern of two parents, rather than just one parent.

Both a husband and a wife can help do the work within the home. Two roommates, either men or women, would probably divide up the house-

hold chores. One would surely be in trouble if all the work was left to the other. In marriage there is no need for dominance and submission, for restrictions or stifling possessiveness. The woman is not the caretaker, nor is the man the dictator. Rather work should be shared.

Another idea for marriage is for each partner to have the right to grow as an individual. With such an approach, the union thrives on change and new experiences, new ways of relating, and new knowledge of one's self. Even falling in love with each other can become a cycle.

In a marriage, roles can be flexible and interchangeable. The wife may cook supper, or the husband may cook supper. The husband and wife may often attend parties as a couple or separately. But when they do so, they are doing it out of choice, not because their mate requires them to do it. The difference is the difference between being forced and having a choice.

Such equality in marriage means that the man no longer needs to be ever strong, brave, and aggressive, and if he is not, is forced to feel like less than a man; and a woman needn't feel trapped by the responsibilities of caring for a home and children.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Show the girls the chart "Some Marriage Patterns." Point out that with equality in a marriage a couple can share some things and have some independent interests.

   In some marriages, one partner is dominated by the other, so that one loses personal identity and is not free to make choices without the permission of the other.

In other marriages, there is not much sharing. Rather, one partner's life simply revolves around the other, much like a satellite.

Ask the girls if they know of other marriage patterns. What are they?

2. Ask the girls whether, once a couple is married, each should be obligated to "love, honor, and obey" the other for a lifetime. Why, or why not? Do the girls think that the word "obey" should be part of a marriage vow?
3. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "Ideas About Marriage" on pages 16 and 17 of Book III. Have them discuss their answers.

Concept One can change the typical agreement that people usually make when they marry.

Objective

Girls will understand that developing a marriage contract can help a couple settle potential areas of conflict before marrying.

Background Information

Basically, the bargain in today's unwritten marriage contract is that the husband gets the right to the wife's services in return for supporting her. There are both men and women who are unable to live happily with such an agreement.

Today some couples are developing written marriage contracts of their own. Marriage contracts may include such things as the wife's name (some women are retaining their maiden name), the right to work

for pay, how housework will be done, the number of children they will have, who will care for the children, the use of income, and where a couple will live.

One benefit of developing a marriage contract is that it helps a couple to find out where they stand on issues and to clear up murky unexamined areas of conflict and potential differences.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Ask the girls when they marry, if they do, whether they plan to keep their own name, take their husband's name, or combine both names. You might have them form teams and debate the pros and cons of each.
2. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "A Marriage Contract?" on page 8 of Book II and on page 18 of Book III. After they complete it, have them discuss their choices and answers.

Concept There may be a relationship between employment and divorce.

Objectives

1. Girls will understand that the type of work that one does may affect one's happiness.
2. Girls will understand that, in the event of divorce, they may need to be economically independent.

Background Information

Each divorced person may have his or her own reasons for the

divorce. However, a study released in 1972 showed a relationship between a person's job satisfaction and social unrest. People who are unhappy in their work tend to be unhappy in other aspects of their lives. Such unhappiness is likely to affect a marriage. While there haven't been many studies of this idea, it is reasonable to think that people who make an appropriate career choice will be happier people and thus can enjoy happier marriages.

In the past, marriages were more stable among those with higher incomes, more years of education, and higher occupational levels. However, since 1965, there has been a rise in the number of divorces of such people. Perhaps income, education, and occupation may no longer be so important in preventing divorce.

With the divorce rate as it is and economic conditions as they are, girls desperately need to be prepared to be economically independent. When a marriage ends in divorce, a man loses a mate but he does not always lose his job. For some women, divorce means the loss of both a mate and a job.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Do the girls think that marriage problems are overstressed, or is there too much emphasis on a perfect marriage? Have the girls debate their viewpoints.
2. Have the girls discuss the case studies in "Reality" on page 19 of Book III.
3. Have the girls discuss the following:

   It has been said that when you don't expect anything of your marriage, you can't be disappointed. Do you believe that couples would be happier in the long run under each of the following conditions?

a. They expected nothing of marriage but a working arrangement for the purpose of raising a family?
b. They expected to fulfill most of their needs other than that of sexual satisfaction in relationships outside of marriage?
c. They continued to expect complete need fulfillment through marriage but worked harder at attaining their goal?
d. They tempered their expectations with an understanding of the limitations of all human beings and all human relationships?

4. Have the girls discuss the ideas in "Philosophy" on page 19 of Book III. Which of these philosophies do they consider most desirable in a young bride or groom? Ask the girls why they made the choice they did.

5. Divide the group into two opposing groups. Have them debate the following:

   a. Divorce is an indication that marriage is taken less seriously than in the past.

   b. Divorce is an indication that marriage is taken more seriously than in the past.

6. Marriage is, after all, a relationship between two people that is capable of producing intense and lifelong misery as well as happiness. Do you think that it is justifiable for any judge to have the power to deny a divorce to an unhappy couple? Have the girls discuss this idea.

7. Ask the girls if they favor or oppose no-fault divorce. Why do they feel one way or the other?

Concept Teenage marriages face some serious hazards.

Objective

Girls will realize the hazards of early marriage.

Background Information

For some young people, teenage marriage is their choice. Some people who marry in their teens have a successful marriage, but the odds are great that such a thing will not happen.

Persons at 16 or 17 or 18 are still growing, are still developing new interests, are still discovering who they are. Marrying as a teenager may mean that a person is giving up the right to some freedom to choose a career, to grow, and to change. Too often teenagers are not ready to give up their teenage activities and settle down to the business of marriage.

Some teenagers marry to escape an unhappy home life. But often that course of action results in going from an unhappy home to a marriage that is likely to repeat the only pattern they know. This reason for a marriage may be like jumping from a frying pan into the fat.

Some young people marry from a sense of loneliness, which may have developed because of neglect or a lack of affection during childhood. They are insecure souls, fleeing loneliness and seeking warmth, closeness, and affection that will shield them from the anxieties and fears of a world in which they have always felt exposed. Marriage for them is often a mistake, for such feelings are exaggerated as frequently as they are cured by a youthful marriage.

Some young people marry as an escape from routine. Marriage looks easy and exciting to them.

Human beings want incompatible things. They want to eat their cake and have it too. They want excitement and adventure. They also want safety and security. These elements are difficult to combine into

one relationship. Without a commitment, one has freedom but not security. With a commitment, one has security but little freedom.

Often, young people do not understand the daily pressures and tensions that marriage and children bring. Also, teenagers are still physically growing, so there are often risks in childbearing. Children born to teenage mothers are considered high-risk infants in terms of health. Indian people in Wisconsin suffer from a high infant mortality rate, partly because 27 percent of Indian babies are born to mothers 19 years of age or younger.

Pregnancy is probably the single, biggest reason for a teenage marriage. Many young couples are not prepared to cope with the raising of a child.

The strain of poor economics can be another hardship on a teenage marriage. It is frustrating and discouraging to have to pay a man's bills for a family when the husband is earning only a boy's wages. Teenagers who marry have no had an opportunity to develop job skills that can earn a decent wage.

In light of these factors, it is not surprising that one out of two teenage marriages ends in divorce. The divorce rate is highest and comes earliest after marriage among those who marry in their teens. The divorce rate for teenage marriages is three times that of any other age group.

Young people need an opportunity to develop job skills, to develop physically, and to have some of the fun and freedom that goes with the early adult years before they enter into marriage.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

1. Have the girls complete the activity sheet "Teenage Marriages?" on page 9 of Book II and on page 20 of Book III. After the girls fill out the sheet, have them discuss their answers. All the answers are true.

2. Have the girls role play the following situation:

   A high school senior girl is wondering about the desirability of marrying her 20-year-old fiance. She discusses the problem with an older girl who married when she was 18.

3. Ask the girls which of the following areas of maturity they consider most essential in a marriage partner:

   a. Physical maturity—a fully developed body.
   b. Intellectual maturity—a fully developed mind.
   c. Emotional maturity—understanding and perspective with reference to one's own feelings.

   How many of the above qualities do teenagers have?

Concept Some couples choose to "live together" rather than marry.

Objective

Girls will consider the implications of living together.

Background Information

Today, in many apartment buildings, it is not uncommon for a man and a woman to be living together and yet have two names on their mailbox. More and more young people tend to live together as sort of a trial marriage. Such arrangements may end in marriage or they may end

in separation. There is increasing concern regarding the legal implications of such arrangements.

Learning Experiences

For Girls 15-18 Years Old

1. Ask the girls if they know of people who have lived together before they married.
2. What do the girls think of this practice? Do they think that it is as new as the media would lead us to believe?
3. Have the girls list the pros and cons of such an arrangement. Have three or four girls on each side debate the pros and cons as they see them.
4. Ask the girls about the legal implications of such arrangements. For example, what happens if the woman buys a car, but registers it in the man's name?

SUMMARY

Learning Experiences

For Girls 12-14 and 15-18 Years Old

As a summary of the unit on marriage, you can use the game "Map Your Future."

1. Show the girls how to use the "Map Your Future" game. To use the game, a girl should take the cards and plan her life from 18 to 65. You could make a large copy of the game and plan the life of a girl. For example, she could graduate from high school, go to college, marry, have a child, etc.
2. Have each girl use the cards to map out her future from 18 to 65.

After this has been done, present the girls with one of the following problems:

You finished high school before your marriage. You have two children. Your husband has a pretty good job, but he doesn't make as much money as he had hoped, and when the children are seven and nine, you and he realize that with the high cost of living, one salary just will not do it.

You work a year and are married at 19. When you are 40, your children are all but grown. You enjoyed your 21 years of homemaking, but you don't just want to sit home for another 35 years.

You go to work for the telephone company when you are 18. Two years later, you marry a handsome, dashing line repairman, and by the time you are 26 you have three children. Your husband is assigned to emergency repair in remote places—is home less and less, starts playing around with other women, and doesn't send money home regularly for you and the family. You try for three years to straighten things out, but things get worse rather than better, and you get a divorce at age 30. The court awards you some support and child support, but it is not enough to live on.

You marry your high school "steady" right after you graduate from high school. He has completed two years of college at that point, and you go to work as a clerk-typist to put him through college. He graduates from college and gets a good job. After five years in the firm, you are promoted to head secretary. It is fascinating work, and while you and your husband are disappointed that no children come along, you decide that since you both enjoy the challenges and freedom of your life, you will not adopt children. You are very interested in the cases being handled by the firm, but you wonder how long the work will be challenging. You are now 26.

It becomes apparent within two years that your marriage was a mistake, and you are divorced. You have a child, almost a year old. Your ex-husband is unemployed, so you have to support yourself.

In your senior year in high school, you fall madly in love with an exciting "older man of 29." He is of the firm opinion that woman's place is in the home, and states often that no wife of his will ever work. The two of you continue to get along and remain married, but his work takes up more and more of his time, and he prefers spending his free time "with the boys" hunting and fishing. Your children are all off on their own by the time you are 40 years old.

Your father dies unexpectedly when you are 17, and your mother is in poor health. You have four younger brothers and sisters, the youngest of whom is two, so supporting the family is up to you. You have no practical skills and jobs are scarce, but you get work. The pay is not bad, but you are pretty tired by nighttime, especially after seeing to things at home. You have boyfriends, but the ones you really like have their own problems and don't see themselves taking over support of your family. By the time the other children can help out enough so that most of your earnings are not needed for the family, you are 35 years old. You find that at that age, there are very few eligible men around. You never do find a husband.

Your husband graduates from college when you are a junior in college, and he is offered a good job in a town that has no four-year college. You marry and go with him. Now, you are 33, and your children are six and seven. Since both children are in school, you feel restless and want to do more than what you are doing.

You graduate from high school and go to a state university for one year. You quit to marry. After two children, your husband seems to give up on working. He has had a number of jobs, none of which lasted very long. You are faced with the job of supporting the family. He is 28. You are 22.

You finish high school and go to the city to work for 10 years as a secretary. You then come back home to work as a secretary for your tribe. You never wanted to marry, even though you had lots of boyfriends. Now, you feel that you should be doing more than secretarial work. You are 31 years old.

Next, have the girls replan their life, if necessary, so that the problems will not be so serious.

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MAP YOUR FUTURE

Age 18

Age 65

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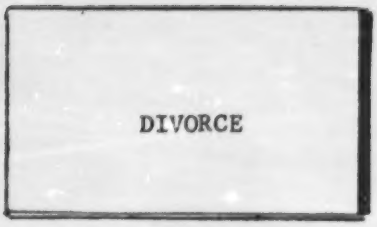

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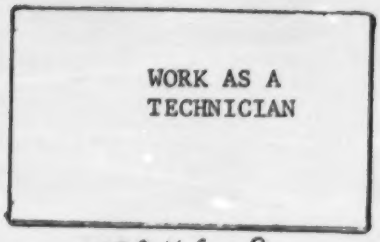

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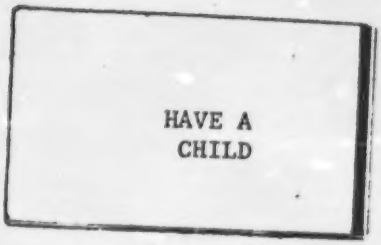

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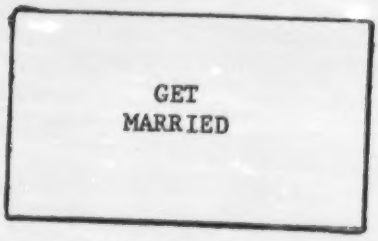

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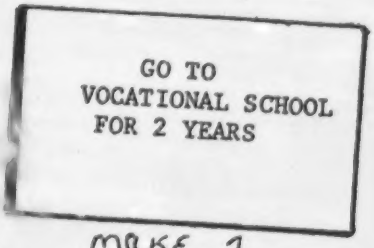

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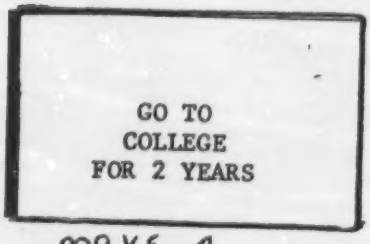

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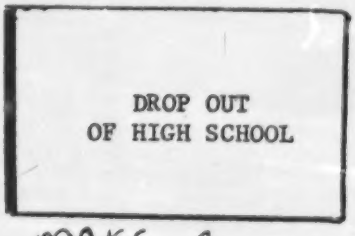

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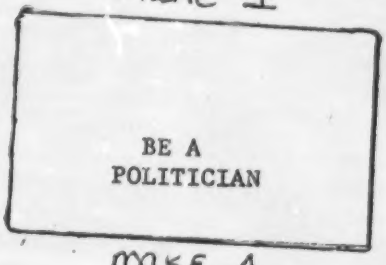

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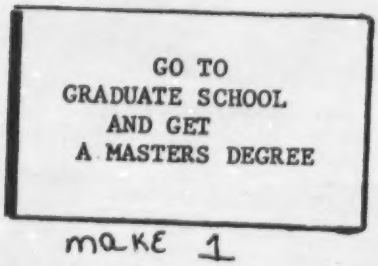

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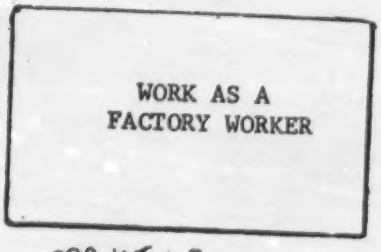

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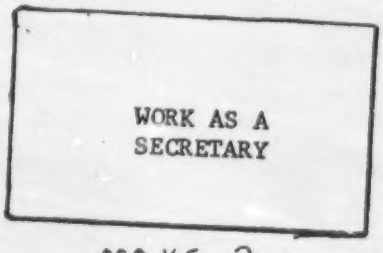

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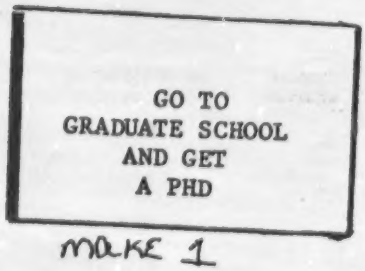

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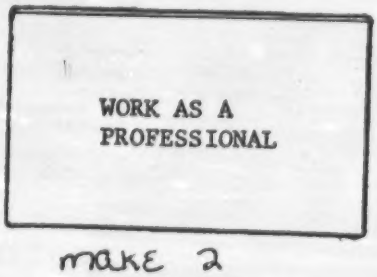

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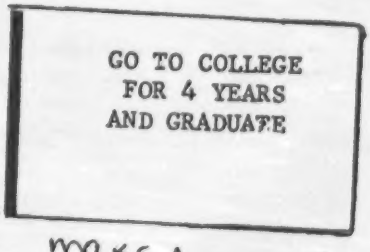

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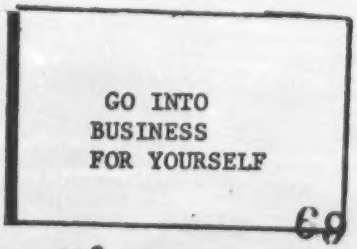

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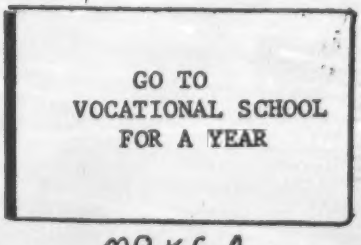

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Your father dies unexpectedly when you are 17, and your mother is in poor health. You have four younger brothers and sisters, the youngest of whom is two, so supporting the family is up to you. You have no practical skills and jobs are scarce, but you get work. The pay is not bad, but you are pretty tired by nighttime, especially after seeing to things at home. You have boyfriends, but the ones you really like have their own problems and don't see themselves taking over support of your family. By the time the other children can help out enough so that most of your earnings are not needed for the family, you are 35 years old. You find that at that age, there are very few eligible men around. You never do find a husband.

WTGZ11c-1

Your husband graduates from college when you are a junior in college, and he is offered a good job in a town that has no four-year college. You marry and go with him. Now, you are 33, and your children are six and seven. Since both children are in school, you feel restless and want to do more than what you are doing.

WTGZ11c-2

You graduate from high school and go to a state university for one year. You quit to marry. After two children, your husband seems to give up on working. He has had a number of jobs, none of which lasted very long. You are faced with the job of supporting the family. He is 28. You are 22.

WTGZ11c-3

You marry your high school "steady" right after you graduate from high school. He has completed two years of college at that point, and you go to work as a clerk-typist to put him through college. He graduates from college and gets a good job. After five years in the firm, you are promoted to head secretary. It is fascinating work, and while you and your husband are disappointed that no children come along, you decide that since you both enjoy the challenges and freedom of your life, you will not adopt children. You are very interested in the cases being handled by the firm, but you wonder how long the work will be challenging. You are now 26.

WTGZ11c-4

It becomes apparent within two years that your marriage was a mistake, and you are divorced. You have a child, almost a year old. Your ex-husband is unemployed, so you have to support yourself.

WTGZ11c-5

In your senior year in high school, you fall madly in love with an exciting "older man of 29." He is of the firm opinion that woman's place is in the home, and states often that no wife of his will ever work. The two of you continue to get along and remain married, but his work takes up more and more of his time, and he prefers spending his free time "with the boys" hunting and fishing. Your children are all off on their own by the time you are 40 years old.

WTGZ11c-6

You finish high school before your marriage. You have two children. Your husband has a pretty good job, but he doesn't make as much money as he had hoped, and when the children are seven and nine, you and he realize that with the high cost of living, one salary just will not do it.

WTGZ11c-7

You work a year and are married at 19. When you are 40, your children are all but grown. You enjoyed your 21 years of homemaking, but you don't just want to sit home for another 35 years.

WTGZ11c-8

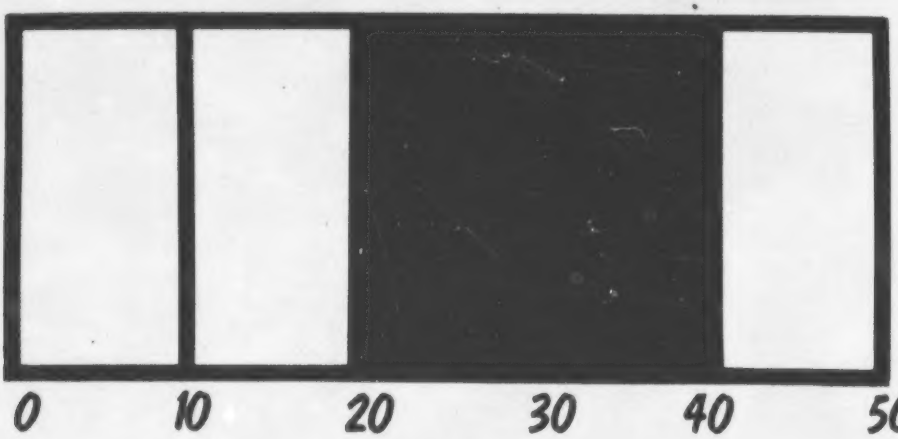
You go to work for the telephone company when you are 18. Two years later, you marry a handsome, dashing line repairman, and by the time you are 26 you have three children. Your husband is assigned to emergency repair in remote places—is home less and less, starts playing around with other women, and doesn't send money home regularly for you and the family. You try for three years to straighten things out, but things get worse rather than better, and you get a divorce at age 30. The court awards you some support and child support, but it is not enough to live on.

WTGZ11c-9

You finish high school and go to the city to work for 10 years as a secretary. You then come back home to work as a secretary for your tribe. You never wanted to marry, even though you had lots of boyfriends. Now, you feel that you should be doing more than secretarial work. You are 31 years old.

WTGZ11c-10

Time for Raising Children in 1900



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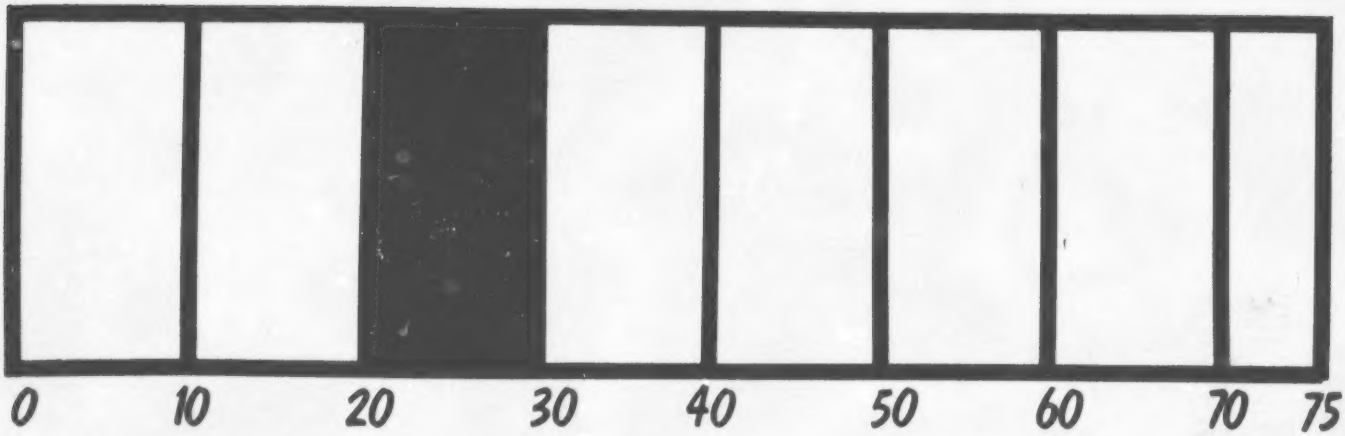
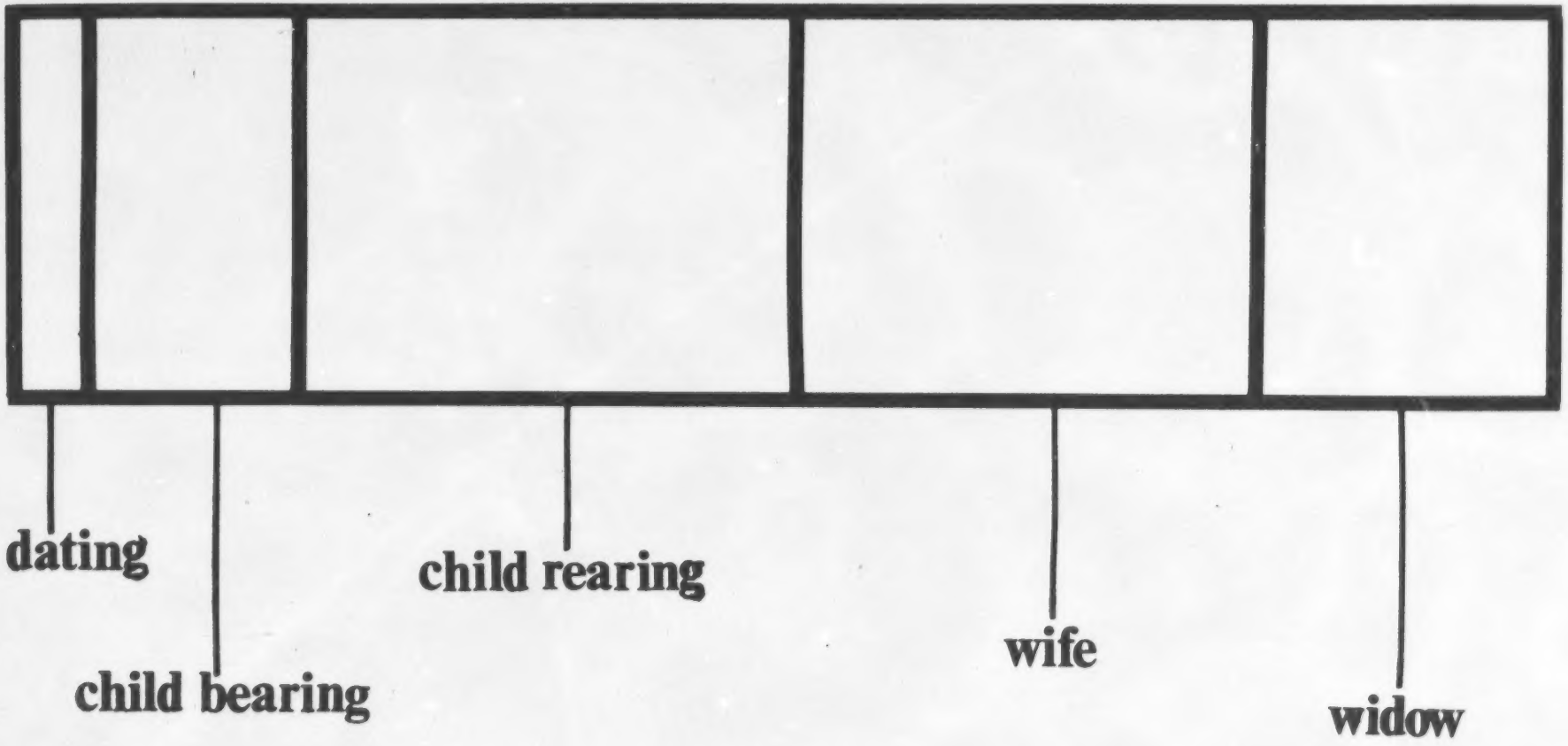
Time for Raising Children in 1970

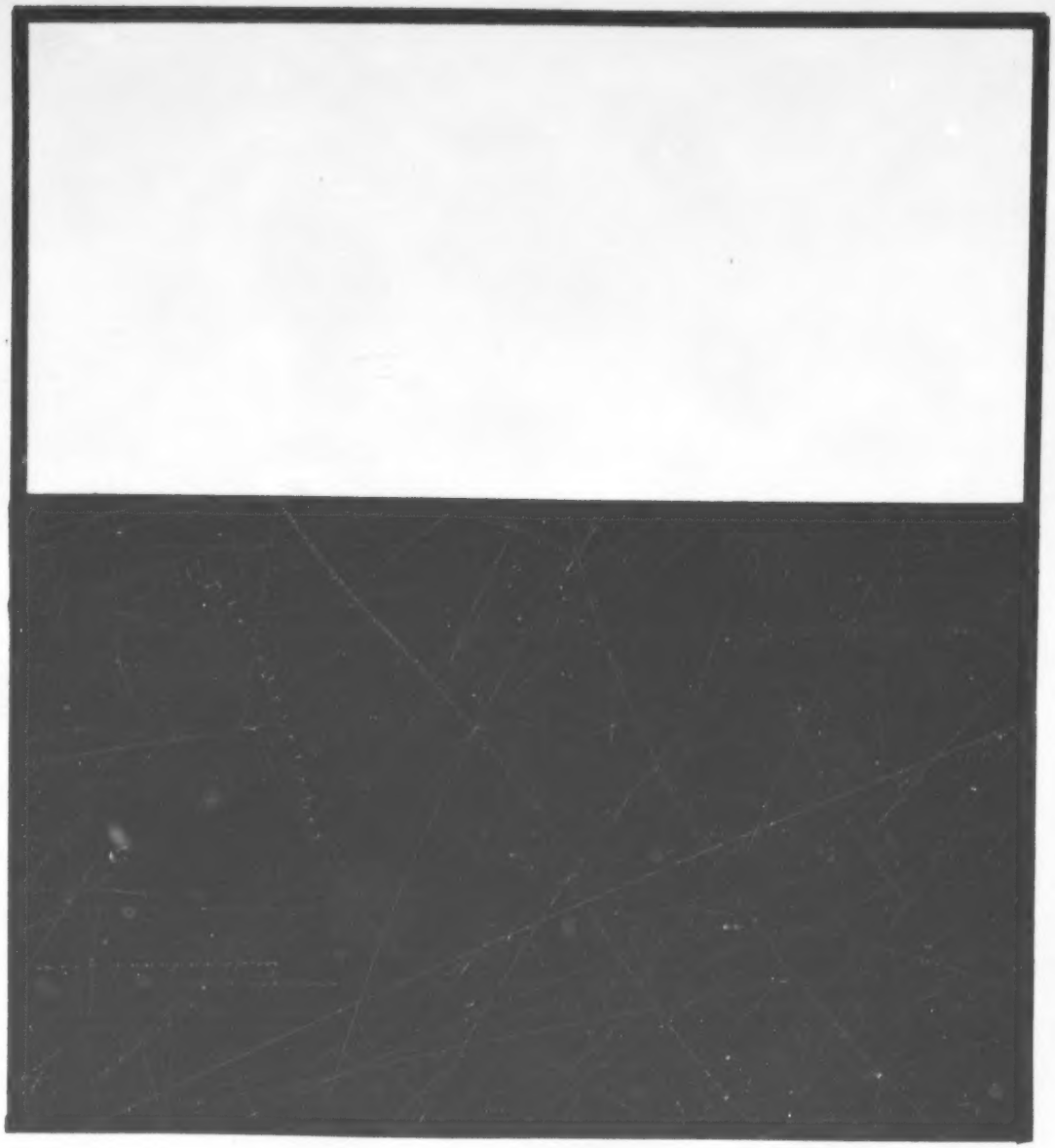


WKGZ11d-1

How A Womans Life Is Spent



32% of Wis. Indian women who work have children under the age of 6.



55% of Wis. Indian women who head families are in poverty

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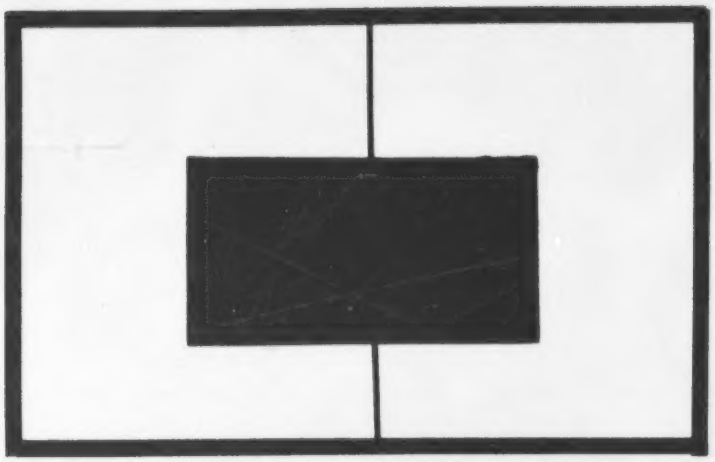
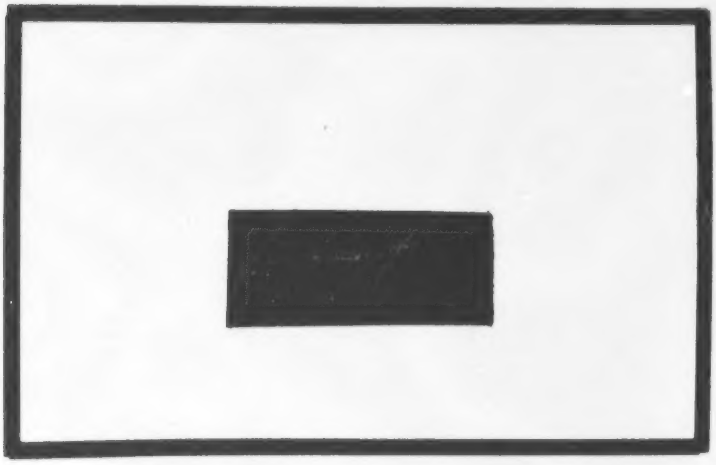
Some Marriage Patterns



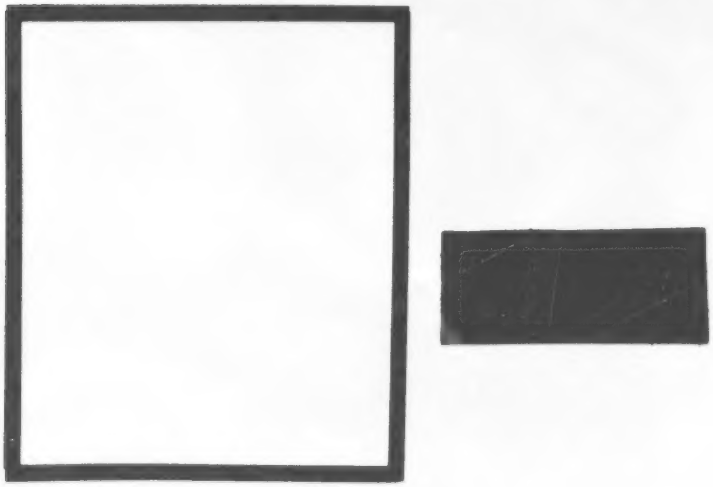
Equality

freedom & sharing



Domination

one rules



Satellite

one revolves

WKGZ11d-5